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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 29, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 24 totaled an estimated 17.2 billion ton-miles, 8.4 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 34 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 578.1 billion ton-miles, down 4.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 24 totaled 383,530, down 9.0 percent from last year, but 0.9 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.3 percent in the East, 9.3 percent in the South and 8.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Among the sharpest declines were loadings of coal, down by 17,234 cars (12.8 percent) and grain, off by 11,058 cars (36.9 percent). On the positive side, motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up by 2,636 cars (14.4 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 17 totaled 87,195 trailers and/or containers, 0.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 2,798,172 trailers and/or containers, down 2.7 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/24/85:

	Loadings in Week ended August 24, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	18,871	D	11,058	36.9	D	148	0.8
Other farm products	2,547	I	192	8.2	I	175	7.4
Metallic ores	14,082	D	6,776	32.5	D	274	1.9
Coal	117,233	D	17,234	12.8	D	6,612	5.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,699	I	49	0.4	I	33	0.2
Nonmetallic minerals	11,561	D	1,070	8.5	I	1,448	14.3
Grain mill products	10,367	D	38	0.4	D	121	1.2
Food and kindred products	11,150	I	167	1.5	D	34	0.3
Primary forest products	10,948	D	2,958	21.3	I	296	2.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,187	D	479	6.2	I	284	4.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,559	D	1,234	8.3	I	5	0.0
Chemicals and allied products	24,397	D	617	2.5	I	1,212	5.2
Petroleum products	4,844	D	23	0.5	I	228	4.9
Stone, clay and glass products	10,804	D	684	6.0	D	103	0.9
Coke	5,042	I	165	3.4	I	425	9.2
Metals and products	8,098	I	96	1.2	I	107	1.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,987	I	2,636	14.4	I	3,145	17.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,847	D	141	1.6	I	300	3.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,055	D	834	10.6	I	177	2.6
All other carloads	62,097	I	1,881	3.1	I	2,847	4.8
LCL traffic	155	D	24	13.4	I	3	2.0
Total Cars Loaded	383,530	D	37,984	9.0	I	3,393	0.9
Corresponding week of 1984	421,514						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	12,679,291	13,442,805	D 5.7

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
33 Weeks ended August 17	560.9 (Rev.)	589.0	D 4.8
Week ended August 24	17.2	18.8	D 8.4
34 weeks cumulative	578.1	607.8	D 4.9

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